

## EU Water Initiative Africa Working Group meeting – report

Monday September 1<sup>st</sup> 2014 – Africa Water Week, Stockholm, Sweden

Appendix I: Participants list

Appendix II : Agenda

Appendix III: All the presentations

### 1. Welcome and opening

- The African co-chair Mr Rashid Taibi, and the European co-Chair of the meeting, André Llebaert (EC\_DEVCO) wished all participants welcome and opened the meeting.

### 2. AMCOW update

- Ms Laila Oualkacha from AMCOW presented the background, context, the lessons learnt from the 1<sup>st</sup> workprogramme, the development of and the new AMCOW 2014-2017 work programme that was adopted by AMCOW's general assembly.

Her presentation can be found attached

Hon. Bai-Mass Taal noted that the role of AMCOW is to coordinate implementation. AMCOW as such doesn't have the implementation capacities.

### 3. Post 2015 MDG / SDG Process,

- Mr Noumbissi Tenku, from the Global Water Partnership briefed the meeting on the National consultations that the GWP lead in order to discuss the UN-Water Technical Advice paper Between February and April 2014, Global Water Partnership (GWP) brought together about 1,200 participants in 29 countries to discuss proposals for a water goal and related targets for the post-2015 development agenda.

The most important conclusion was a broad consensus that the proposed goal of "*Securing sustainable water for all*" is fundamental to future development. In addition, there was strong support for targets that advance integrated approaches to water management, in particular the five targets proposed in the.

<http://www.gwp.org/en/gwp-in-action/News-and-Activities/GWP-Consultations-Reinforce-Call-for-Dedicated-Water-Goal/>

- Pierre Guillibert from GIZ, highlighted that the SDGs must be in line with the National Goals and ask the question whether the SDGs would provide new orientations and opportunities for the

countries. He for example highlighted the opportunities that a Water Food Energy Nexus for multi-purpose infrastructure.

- Patrick Stalgren from SIDA, understands that the role of AMCOW is to highlight the high importance of water sector development as driver for economic development. As such water should become a political priority for the National Governments, not only for the donor countries.
- Andy Bullock, independent consultant hired by the EUWI AWG, highlighted that the recognition of water as a priority in Africa can be read in the Vision 2025 and in the National Growth and Poverty Reduction Strategies.
- Bai-Mass Taal, Ex Sec of AMCOW developed the importance of water in the national strategies by saying that all Water Infrastructure in Africa are financed in average by 60% of national budget.

#### **4. Joint Africa-EU Strategic partnership and implications on the EUWI-AWG**

- André Liebaert from the EC presented the 'Policy and implementation framework for EU water-related initiatives and programmes' as well as the 'Future opportunities for the Africa-EU Partnership on water affairs and sanitation. He explained the conclusions of the Africa EU Summit that negotiated the Joint Africa EU Strategy. He highlighted the priority areas and the implementation under the EC Infrastructure coordination.
- Co-chair, Rashid Taibi, asked the pertinent question if attached to the made declaration there is a commitment to finance in particular the decision making processes and infrastructure.
- André responded that indeed there is financial commitment to finance a programme of action that is to be developed in the next phase.
- Pierre Guillibert from GIZ informed that GIZ has the intention to participate in the development of programme of action, but that before that there is the need to identify priorities through nexus dialogues.
- André Liebaert also highlighted the an "Infrastructure Trust Fund" already exists to finance the PIDA (Programme for Infrastructure Development in Africa)

#### **5. Orientation of possible future activities**

- *Preliminary findings from review and stakeholder consultation, and discussion:*

Andy Bullock, independent consultant hired by the EUWI AWG for a stocktaking mission of 12 years AWG implementation and also proposing strategic directions for the AWG under the JAES, presented his first findings based on a review of the AWG documents and on consultations with Stakeholders.

He provided an overview of the history of the EUWI, and of the different water components. One of his first findings is the important difference in engagement of the European and African partners between the beginning of the EUWI AWG in 2002 and now. In 2002 he concludes that there was a strong EU MS engagement, but with a weakly organised African

partners. On the contrary now in 2014, he concludes that EU MS engagement has waned, but that African partners are much strongly organised.

The core of African demand for the water sector development lies in the request to invest in the infrastructure development. This is, according to AMCOW, also reflected in the NGPRS;

As a first recommendation he proposes to have a less “Eurocentric”-organised Africa EU water partnership, that would on will for continuity of past AWG Strategic Objectives (esp Aid effectiveness, Harmonization and Alignment etc). The most crucial aspect for the AWG to continue in its present or new format, is to mobilize a substantial (“enough”) number of EU-MS that would act as a collective.

- *Proposed Water/Food/Energy Nexus activities*

James Leten, from the AWG Support team presented the first ideas for the next AWG action plan. The activities would be organized around 5 pillars: aid effectiveness, WASH and Infrastructure, Nexus, Water Government and Climate Change , and finally Capacity Development and Knowledge Management.

Question and Answers.

- Nico Elema from the Centers of excellence, notes that a lot of reference is made to the Centers of Excellence in the Africa EC Roadmap, that the Centers are recognized as THE knowledge generators and managers of the African continent. Even with these reference, he wonders if there will be any allocated budget for research, because as it is now, the Centers have to compete with other institutions to get funding through projects.
- A representative of the civil society was wondering if there would be room for the civil society in the whole JAES process,.
- André responded that there is room for all representative of the society, also for the civil society.
- Mr Fleming from Danida, recognized that Danida lost interest in working with the AWG and this for different reasons, but definitely willing to reengage under certain conditions. A niche of the AWG is definitely the organization and facilitation of a dynamic discussion around the global picture of development cooperation. This lies completely in line with the original objective of a more effective aid support.
- François Birkké from the GWP also recalled that the Africa Working Group raised quite some financial expectation at its inception. This might be the reason why interest is waning.
- *Water Futures and Solutions (WFaS) - a scientific initiative guided by stakeholder views to define global and regional water challenges and to identify solutions across sectors*

Andreas Knapp from the Austrian development cooperation presented *"A scientific initiative guided by stakeholder views to define global and regional water challenges and to identify solutions across sectors"*, an initiative of IIASA (International Institute for Applied System Analysis): <http://www.iiasa.ac.at/wfas>

This research initiative has the ambition to answer the following question: *"What water-related policies & management practices can be implemented today that will be robust at improving human well-being through water security, across a range of possible futures & associated uncertainties we face"*

The Strategy to respond to this question would be through a coalition of donors, scientists (research institutions), and stakeholder's organizations.

The Meeting was closed at 17:30 by the 2 chairs

Appendix I: List of participants

<b>Nr</b>	<b>Name / Nom</b>	<b>Institution / Organisation / Representation Country / Pays</b>	<b>email</b>
1	James Leten	EUWI-Africa Working Group at SIWI - Sweden	<a href="mailto:James.leten@siwi.org">James.leten@siwi.org</a>
2	Andy Bullock	Consultant for EUWI-AWG	<a href="mailto:andybullock61@btinternet.com">andybullock61@btinternet.com</a>
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Appendix II Agenda:

Meeting of the EUWI Africa Working Group

Monday September 1<sup>st</sup> 2014, 14:00-17:00

Meeting room K 15 – World Water Week venue

## Agenda

<b>Agenda item</b>	<b>Time</b>
<b>1. Welcome and opening</b> <i>By AWG co-chair(s)</i>	14.00 – 14.05
<b>2. AMCOW update</b> Presentation of AMCOW work plan 2014-2016 adopted by its General Assembly on the 31 <sup>st</sup> of May 2014 Progress and plans <i>- by the AMCOW Secretariat</i>	14.20 – 14.40
<b>3. Post 2015 MDG / SDG Process</b> National consultations in Africa on a dedicated water goal, discussing the UN-Water <i>– by Noubissi Tenku, GWP</i>	14.40 – 15.00
<b>4. Joint Africa-EU Strategic Partnership and implications on EUWI and the AWG</b> Policy decided at the Brussels' Africa EU Summit (April 1 <sup>st</sup> and 2 <sup>nd</sup> ) and new institutional landscape for the AWG <i>– by André Liebaert, EC</i>	14.40 – 15.00
<b>Coffee break</b>	<b>15.00 – 15.20</b>
<b>5. Orientation of possible future activities</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Preliminary findings from review and stakeholder consultation, and discussion <i>– by Andy Bullock, independent consultant</i></li> <li>Proposed Water/Food/Energy Nexus activities <i>– by AWG support team</i></li> <li>Water Futures and Solutions (WFaS) - a scientific initiative guided by stakeholder views to define global and regional water challenges and to identify solutions across sectors <i>- by Andreas Knapp (Austrian Development Cooperation)</i></li> </ul>	15.20 – 16.00  16.00 - 16.30  16:30 - 17:00
<b>6. Closing words</b> <i>By AWG co-chair(s)</i>	17.00